

GREAT LAKES CENTER FOUNDATION, QUINN EVANS | ARCHITECTS, AND GREGORY CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT, BAY CITY

The Pere Marquette Depot, located within two blocks of the center of Bay City's central business district, was vacant for more than 30 years. Attempts to use the building as a restaurant, a library, and a depot for the local transportation authority failed, and with each failure the community's disappointment rose.

The tide turned when the Great Lakes Center Foundation, a real estate holding organization for the Bay Area Community Foundation, began rehabilitating the structure in 2003 with funding from a variety of sources including the city, the county, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and private and corporate foundations. The project represents \$4.8 million in direct investment leading to the creation of some 120 jobs. The residents of Bay City are proud of the completed building, which serves as the central source for tourism and community information. In addition it provides gathering space for meetings, concerts, family days, weddings, and other events.

The transformation of the Pere Marquette Depot has inspired owners of commercial buildings in the area to improve their properties, and homes are being rehabilitated as the area undergoes revitalization.

